



## ROUTING SLIP

## DIVISION OF WILDLIFE REFUGES

DATE: 5-30 1944☒ MR. SALYER

## SECTION OF HABITAT IMPROVEMENT:

☐ MRS. WOODIN

Mr. Kubichek

☒ ~~MR. ELMER~~

Mr. Smith

☐ MRS. CARVIN☒ ~~Mr. Griffith~~ *REG 6/1*☒ ~~MR. DUMONT~~ *PAD*☒ ~~Miss Cook~~ *SWC 5-31*

## SECTION OF OPERATIONS:

## SECTION OF ERA:

☒ ~~Mr. Krummel~~ *WFS 8/5*☒ ~~Mr. Regan~~ *MR 6/1/44*

Mr. Gustafson

~~Dr. Houn~~ *WSB 5-30-44*

Miss Baum

Mrs. Fishman

Mrs. Kricun

## SECTION OF LAND MANAGEMENT:

## STENOGRAPHERS:

☒ ~~Mr. Earnshaw~~ *3*

Miss Whorley

Mr. Ackerknecht

*b-b-HH aK*☒ SECTION OF STRUCTURES:~~Mr. Taylor~~ *WST 8/9/44*

## REMARKS:

NORTH PLATTE NARRATIVE REPORT

*Year's Summary*

JANUARY-APRIL 1944

Return to: Hab. Improvement

Narrative Report  
North Platte Refuge  
January, February, March & April  
1944

### I General

#### A. Water Conditions

The first of the year Lake Minatare contained 11,725 acre feet of water, covering 938 acres. The last part of March the intake gates were opened and the water started flowing in both Lakes Alice and Minatare. The following is the storage in acre feet as of April 30;

	Elevation	Acre feet	Area submerged
Lake Alice	4170.2	3341	531
Lake Minatare	4115.0	40824	1827

### II Wildlife

Only one inspection of the North Platte Refuge was made during the quarter. On April 4 both Mr. Fleming and I made an inspection of the area. At that time there were very few ducks resting on the lakes. We estimated that there were only 500 mallards on Lakes Alice, Minatare, and Winter's Creek. Ring-billed gulls were numerous. Very few ducks nest on these lakes. However during the fall migration thousands of all species of waterfowl use the area as a resting ground. It has been impossible for me to make as many trips to this refuge as I would have liked.

Upland game birds such as ringnecked pheasants and bob-white quail are common on the area. Sharp-tailed grouse have been observed but not in any large numbers. The North Platte Valley in the vicinity of this refuge is the only area in Western Nebraska where bob-white quail are to be found. The willow and cottonwood groves, and large patches of sweet clover on the refuge, afford the quail both food and cover. Ringnecked pheasants are plentiful and from the numbers observed by us on April 4th, it appeared as if they had wintered well.

### III Maintenance

Several days should be spent on this area repairing the fence on Lake Minatare. But there is more urgent work at the Crescent Lake Refuge, and the fence repairs at Minatare will have to wait until summer. Mr. H. R. McElwee, an employee of the Pathfinder Irrigation District who was stationed on the refuge was retired on March 1st after some twenty year's service. Mr. McElwee will be missed by us. He was always repairing fence or replacing refuge markers, and although it was not in his line of duty, he did his best to protect the wildlife on the refuge by discouraging poachers and keeping livestock from the area. There are two other ditchwalkers stationed on the area but they show no interest in wildlife. The North Platte Refuge should

really be visited more often but because of restricted travel and of work that must be done on the Crescent Lake area, it has been impossible to make the trip more often.

Gene H. Crawford.  
Gene H. Crawford  
Refuge Manager

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APPROVED:

5/27/84 ADJ  
Active REGIONAL DIRECTOR



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*Gene H. Crawford*  
Gene H. Crawford  
Refuge Manager

APPROVED  
*[Signature]*  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR



CRESCENT LAKE REFUGE  
ELLSWORTH, NEBRASKA

Summary of year's activities for the North Platte  
Refuge submitted in conjunction with Quarterly Report  
for January, February, March, and April, 1944.

The lake levels on this refuge fluctuate as the water is impounded for for irrigational purposes. On January 1, 1943 Lake Minatare contained 4,200 acre feet of water. On June 30 this lake contained 55065 acre feet. Of course this is a very undesirable condition for nesting waterfowl. Even though this area is not too desirable for nesting waterfowl, it is a splendid resting area especially during the Fall migration. On December 4 I made an inspection trip to this area and found 200,000 ducks concentrated on Lake Minatare and 10,000 on Winter's Creek. There was no duck population on Lake Alice as it was completely dry. Of the above duck concentration 95 percent were mallards and the remainder was about evenly divided between gadwalls, pintails, and redheads. Ringnecked pheasants and bob-white quail are plentiful on the area and from the numbers observed by me on my inspection to this area on April 4, it appeared as if they had wintered well.

A considerable amount of activity was observed during the fall and winter months as local sportsmen were fishing for northern pike in Lake Minatare. Three years ago the State Game Commission planted 80 pair of pike in this lake. The local people seem to think that the pike will help eliminate the larger portion of the carp from the lake. The largest pike caught during the year from the lake weighed 16 pounds and measured 42 inches in length.

Owing to lack of sufficient help at the Crescent Lake Refuge and the distance involved in traveling to this refuge, it was not inspected as often as we would have liked. Mr. H. R. McElwee, employe of the irrigation district who was stationed on Lake Minatare, has a Federal commission to enforce the game laws was of great assistance to me. He was always repairing fence or replacing refuge markers. Mr. McElwee was retired by the Pathfinder Irrigation District on March 1st after some twenty year's service and he will be missed by us. There are two other ditchwalkers stationed on the area but they show no interest in wildlife. On April 12 of last year we placed two new No. 16 signs on this refuge, one was placed on Lake Minatare and the other on Lake Alice. Fences on this area are in need of repair, especially on Lake Minatare. We have experienced considerable difficulty in keeping the gates closed on the Lake Alice area. People in that vicinity opened the gates and allowed their cattle to graze within the enclosure. We requested permission to lease the Lake Alice area to a rancher to pasture stock on a limited scale. After the Regional Office had corresponded with the Reclamation Service a permit was issued a rancher for the pasturing of a limited number of livestock. This rancher maintained the fences last season. From a wildlife management standpoint, this has been a splendid arrangement as the cattle were not placed on the area until after the nesting season was over, and the grazing materially assisted in reducing the fire hazard and it was possible to prevent the trespassing.

Respectfully submitted,

*Gene H. Crawford*  
Gene H. Crawford  
Refuge Manager

A circular postmark from the U.S. Forest Service. The outer ring contains the text "U.S. FOREST SERVICE" at the top and "WILDLIFE SERVICE" at the bottom, separated by two stars. In the center, the date "MAY 30 1944" is printed, with the word "RECEIVED" above it. The postmark is stamped in a dark, slightly faded ink on a light-colored, textured paper.

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The following paragraph, which was part of the  
 letter, was printed in connection with the letter, and  
 was not a part of the letter, but was a part of the letter.

ETZMOBILE, MERVASKA  
CHESCEMI TAKE KEELOE